

GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT
Judge Judith H. Ramseyer

Different judges have different styles and requirements. Here are some of mine:

- Be on time. If we are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., please arrive early enough that you are prepared to begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Stand to object or to address the Court.
- Do not interrupt or talk at the same time as someone who is speaking.
- Do not use demeaning, racist, sexist, obscene, or profane language in court (unless eliciting or quoting from the facts of the case).
- No food or beverages (except water) are allowed in the courtroom; remove hats unless worn for medical or religious reasons.
- Turn off all electronic devices that ring or audibly alert such as cell phones, PDAs, alarms, etc.
- Have all exhibits marked and logged with the Clerk before trial begins, in accordance with the pretrial order.
- Respect other's time. Have your witnesses present and ready to testify when needed.
- Address all parties, witnesses, and counsel formally. No first names, except for children.
- Side bar conferences will not be conducted. If you anticipate an issue that must be discussed outside the jury's presence, notify the Bailiff so it can be addressed on the record before the jury is brought in or after it is excused.
- Notify the court in advance of any firearms in the courtroom, whether for evidentiary or other purposes. Firearms must be secured and unloaded at all times. Never point a firearm in the direction of any person in the courtroom.
- Remember that "brevity is the soul of wit." Everyone appreciates a concise, well-constructed presentation.